

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

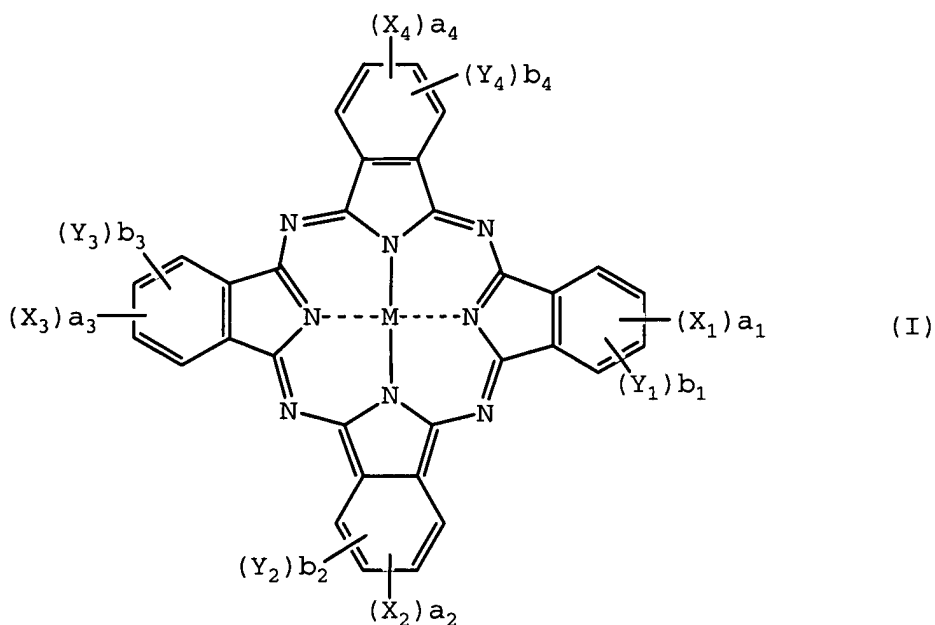
LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): An inkjet ink comprising at least one dye having a heterocyclic ring and a metal ion in an aqueous medium, wherein the ink jet ink further comprises a compound capable of accelerating aggregation of the dye in the aqueous medium.

2. (original): The inkjet ink as claimed in claim 1, wherein the dye having a heterocyclic ring and a metal ion is a phthalocyanine dye.

3. (original): The inkjet ink as claimed in claim 1, wherein the compound capable of accelerating aggregation of the dye in the aqueous medium is at least one compound selected from heterocyclic or chain-like low molecular weight compounds that may be substituted with a hydroxy group, an amino group or a thiazolyl group.

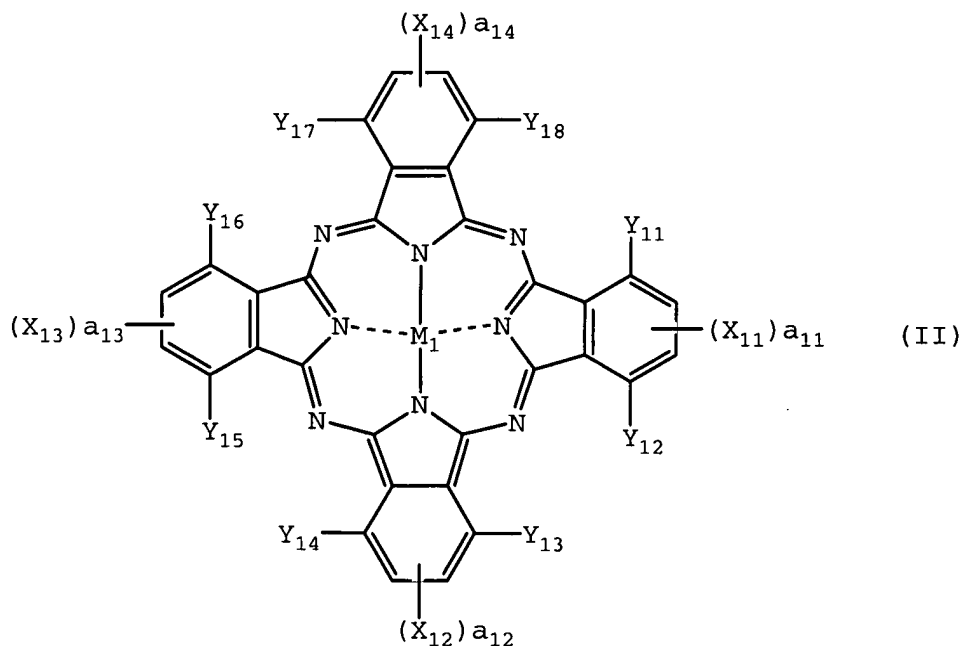
4. (currently amended): The inkjet ink as claimed in claim 1, wherein the dye having a heterocyclic ring and a metal ion is at least one of dyes represented by formula (I) shown below[.]:



wherein, X_1 , X_2 , X_3 and X_4 each independently represent $-\text{SO}-\text{Z}$, $-\text{SO}_2-\text{Z}$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{NR}_1\text{R}_2$, a sulfo group, $-\text{CONR}_1\text{R}_2$ or $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}_1$; Z represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; R_1 and R_2 each independently represent a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; when two or more Z s are present, these may be the same or different from each other; Y_1 , Y_2 , Y_3 and Y_4 each independently represent a monovalent substituent; when two or more of any one of X_1 s to X_4 s and Y_1 s to Y_4 s are present, these may be the same or different from each other; a_1 , a_2 , a_3 and a_4 and b_1 , b_2 , b_3 and b_4 represent numbers of substituents represented by X_1 to X_4 and Y_1 to Y_4 , respectively; a_1 to a_4 each independently represent an integer of from 0 to 4, provided that all of a_1 to a_4 are not 0 at the same time; b_1 to b_4 each independently represent an integer of from 0 to 4; and M represents a hydrogen atom, a metal element or an oxide, hydroxide or halide thereof.

RULE 312 AMENDMENT
U.S. Appln. No. 10/807,294

5. (currently amended): The inkjet ink as claimed in claim 4, wherein the dye represented by formula (I) is a dye represented by formula (II) shown below[[.]]:



wherein, X_{11} , X_{12} , X_{13} , X_{14} , Y_{11} , Y_{12} , Y_{13} , Y_{14} , Y_{15} , Y_{16} , Y_{17} , Y_{18} and M_1 have the same meanings as defined for X_1 to X_4 , Y_1 to Y_4 and M in formula (I), respectively; and a_{11} to a_{14} each independently represent an integer of from 1 or 2.

6. (new): The inkjet ink as claimed in claim 1, wherein the compound capable of accelerating aggregation of the dye in the aqueous medium is a compound represented by formula (K) shown below:



wherein, X represents a hydrogen atom, an amino group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, an alkenyl group, an alkynyl group or a group represented by $C(=P)=Q$ (wherein P represents a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy group, an amino group, an alkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, an alkenyl group, an alkynyl group, an alkylamino group, an arylamino group, an alkoxy group or an aryloxy group, and Q represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or a substituted nitrogen atom); Y represents a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy group, an amino group, an

RULE 312 AMENDMENT
U.S. Appln. No. 10/807,294

alkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, an alkenyl group, an alkynyl group, an alkylamino group, an arylamino group, an alkoxy group or an aryloxy group; and Z represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or a substituted nitrogen atom, or any two of X, Y and Z may be combined with each other to form a ring.